

Claims.

1. (currently amended) Butt-joining method comprising:

In two abutting metal strips punching a substantially rectangular slot into both abutments, inserting into said two slots a deformable slug, clinching ~~it~~ said slug into said slots,  
 5 thereby securely joining said strips.

2. (original) Butt-joining method as defined in claim 1 wherein said slots in both said abutments are keystone shaped instead of rectangular.

3. (original) Butt-joining method as defined in claim 1 wherein said slots in both said abutments have two rounded edges produced by both a punch and a die.

4. (currently amended) Butt-joining method as defined in claim 1 wherein said strips are of other material ~~than~~ than metal.

5. (original) Butt-joining method as defined in claim 1 wherein a plurality of slots are used.

6. (currently amended) ~~Butt joining method as defined in claim 2 wherein said keystone shaped slugs slots are also having have said two rounded corners edges produced by both a punch and a die.~~  
<sup>CANCELLED</sup>

7. (currently amended) Butt-joining clinch method comprising:

In two abutting metal strips punching a substantially rectangular slot into both abutments, using one knock-out-slug from said punching, re-inserting said slug into the center of both said abutments, clinching ~~it~~ said slug into said slots thereby securely joining said strips.

8. (original) Butt-joining clinch method as defined in claim 7 wherein said slots in both said abutments is keystone shaped instead of rectangular.

9. (original) Butt-joining clinch method as defined in claim 7 wherein said slots in both said abutments have two rounded edges produced by both a punch and a die.

10. (currently amended) Butt-joining clinch method as defined in claim 7 wherein said strips are of other material ~~than~~ than metal.

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